

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

Lincoln

VIA: COURIER

(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA ROUTE)

DISPATCH NO. ~~AGG-A-1162~~

2003

~~SECRET~~ PBSUCCESS RYBAT

CLASSIFICATION

TO : LINCOLN

DATE: MAY 28 1954

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala

INFO: Chief, WED;

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Arms and Ammunition

SPECIFIC— Information Re Alfhem Arms Shipment

The following information was received from Col. Thomas B. HANFORD, Chief of the U.S. Army Mission to Guatemala, who states that it is from a reliable source and not to be considered rumor. It pertains to the equipment unpacked at the 2nd Regiment.

1. All arms were of German manufacture with some bearing a swastika printed on the metal parts.
2. All arms have been used but appear to be in excellent condition.
3. No armored cars, tanks or vehicles of any type were unloaded at the 2nd Regiment. There was no communications equipment.
4. All weapons arrived with a large quantity of spare parts estimated to be sufficient for the next ten years.
5. No books of instruction or technical advisors arrived with the equipment.
6. Ammunition for all weapons was also uncrated, enough, according to source, "for between 10-15 years normal usage."
7. All arms are stored in the First Rifle Company's barracks which is a cement building with a tile roof. The place to which the First Company was removed is not known.

ARMAMENT:

Rifles - large number of Czech type 7mm. Mauser, 7 round magazine, bolt action.

Machine guns - Bipod type, light machine gun. Belt fed (cloth belt). Bullet same size as 9 mm. luger pistol (similar to old German burp gun).

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Machine guns - Tripod type 7 mm.

Auto rifle - 7 mm. similar in appearance to BAR except clip loaded from the side.

Anti-tank guns - 37 mm. similar to those of U.S., low silhouette, pneumatic tires.

Howitzers - Smaller type than a 75 mm. - perhaps about 65 mm. Steel tires on wooden wheels, steel shields. About 100 of these unpacked at 2nd Regiment. These came in conical shaped boxes.

Mortars - Smaller than U.S. 81 mm. - perhaps about 65 mm. Quite a large quantity.

Grenades - A very large number of these. Black in color, did not appear to be made of metal but of fibre. Looked like the end of the old German "potato masher."

Anti-tank mines - 30 to a case. Similar to our Tiller mine in size, appearance and color. These came in a case with a champagne glass stamped on the side and marked "fragile" or something similar. This evidently to give the impression the box contained "glassware."

There were no anti-personnel mines unpacked.

HANFORD also stated that other sources stated the same types of equipment were unpacked at the First Regiment headquarters.

[Clara M. Heagey]

27 May 1954

MCH/omh

Distribution:

2-Linc

2-Wash

1-Files